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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

JAN 10 1980

Docket No. 70-820

MEMORANDUM FOR: W. T. Crow, Section Leader
Uranium Process Licensing Section
Uranium Fuel Licensing Branch

FROM: Robert L. Stevenson
Uranium Process Licensing Section
Uranium Fuel Licensing Branch

SUBJECT: TELECONS ON JANUARY 2 AND 3, 1980 WITH MESSRS. GREGG AND HELGESON, UNITED NUCLEAR COMPANY (UNC), WOOD RIVER JUNCTION, R.I., CONCERNING WASTE DISPOSAL ACTIVITIES

UNC's letter dated December 21, 1979 provided additional details of their plans for disposing of the process wastes currently stored in lagoons at the plant site. UNC intends to evaporate the liquids and to dry the solids for shipment to a licensed burial site. The telephone calls were made to find out some additional details of the operation:

1. What UNC plans to do with the overheads from the evaporator.

2. What is being done with the process wastes currently being generated?

In response to Question 1, Mr. Gregg stated that the steam distillate is being discharged directly to the atmosphere, but samples of the steam show very little radioactivity. (Section 407.1 of SNM-777 requires continuous monitoring of all gaseous effluents.)

In response to Question 2, Mr. Gregg explained that the evaporator cannot handle solids, and hence most of the currently generated process wastes must go to the lagoon system for solids removal. Following installation of the solids drying equipment (which the December 1979 letter indicates should be accomplished by April 1, 1980), it will be possible to route all newly generated process wastes directly to the waste handling system without using lagoons.

Mr. Gregg stated that approximately 22,000 gallons of lagoon supernate had been evaporated and the 4 GPM evaporation rate attained.

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Dr. Shum and I called Mr. Helgeson on January 3 to inquire about the method being used to monitor radioactivity in the evaporator off-gas. Mr. Helgeson said that the evaporator tube sheet had failed and that the evaporator off-gas would be continuously monitored when evaporation was resumed, following repair of the tube sheet.

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